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The fundamental principles of theology, as theology is here presented to us, are above and beyond human comprehension and can only be measurably *apprehended*; hence doctors and experts in theology assume or appear to speak with something of a supernatural authority. This has always been the claim of ecclesiastics, more or less distinctly avowed, and men have over and over again risen up in rebellion against it, claiming that the human intellect and conscience may and must eventually sit in judgment upon every system of religious faith, and that those systems or parts of systems which do violence to the reason and judgment of mankind must sooner or later go to the wall. Dr. Shedd, in this treatise, labors hard, and with varying success, to expound the abstruse points of the Calvinistic creeds, and to this extent, we presume, recognizes the right of men to accept or reject his propositions, within the limits of conscience and under the guidance of the spirit of truth. As an exhibit of the distinctive doctrines of the evangelical school, the work is of pre-eminent value.

II.

MEMOIRS OF GENERAL SHERIDAN.

AMONG all the military memoirs called forth by the late Civil War, none surpasses in sustained interest, or in simple, graphic style of narration, that of General Sheridan.* At first the reader probably fears that the autobiographical form of the story may prove to be inconvenient. It is so difficult for any one to sit down and write an account of his own exploits without doing injustice either to himself or the history! In this case, the story grows in attractiveness with every page. For severe simplicity and dignity, and the absence of grandiloquence and perfervid enthusiasm, the book reminds one of the pages of Xenophon. Possibly Sheridan himself might have posed as a greater man, and possibly a greater tribute might have been paid to his memory as a successful soldier, if his history had been written by another person; but the world would have lost a book of classic merit, as this book undoubtedly is, and it will be so regarded by future generations. The closing chapters give an account of his experiences and impressions in the German camp as a spectator of the Franco-German contest of 1870.

III.

THE JEWISH RELIGION.

A BRIEF résumé of the history and evolution of the Jewish religion is undertaken by Rabbi Solomon Schindler, of the Temple Adath Israel, Boston, in "Dissolving Views of the History of Judaism."[†] The three objective points may be stated as follows: Religion has ever been changing; the forms have changed only where their underlying principles have outlived their usefulness; and the present generation has the same right to change its religious practices as had its predecessors. The work is composed of a series of week-day lectures, which were delivered by the rabbi to his congregation in the form of brief biographical studies of prominent Jewish leaders from the earliest times to the present day. These are concise in style and philosophical in tone.

The religion of the early Hebrews is considered from a lower plane than usual, only two biblical characters being introduced, and these are treated with rather

* "Personal Memoirs of P. H. Sheridan," General United States Army. 2 vols. Charles L. Webster & Co.

[†] "Dissolving Views in the History of Judaism." By Rabbi Solomon Schindler. Boston: Lee & Shepard.